curbing the illegal trade in wild animals and animal articles in India. However, some cases of attempted illegal trade in animal skins have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) The number of cases of attempted illegal trade reported by the four Regional Offices of Wildlife Preservation at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and the persons arrested during 1994 are as follows:—

| Centre | No. of Cases detected | No. of persons arrested |
|---|---|---|
| Calcutta | 4 | Nil |
| Bombay | 5 | Nil |
| Delhi | 3 | 3 |
| Madras | 16 | Nil |

Action has been initiated against the offenders in accordance with the provisions of the relevant laws.

(e) At present there is no proposal to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

**'Findings of the C.P.C.B. on Toxic Flames'**

2431. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, following the deaths of some persons due to toxic flames from burning scrap in a residential colony in Delhi, a team of the Central Pollution Control Board, led by Dr. Dilip Biswas, investigated the incident;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the team and the recommendations made; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Central Pollution Control Board has conducted an investigation into the toxic gas discharge at Kardampuri, East Delhi. According to the report, toxic fumes were produced during early morning hours of 13th November, 1994 and the presence of volatile compounds of selenium, cadmium, lead, zinc, iron and oxides of nitrogen in the toxic gas had been identified. The presence of cyanide and sulphates is likely to have aggravated the toxicity of the discharged gas. It is apprehended that the toxic gas fumes were produced during the crude method of refining/recovery of metals from metalic scrap/powders by a scrap dealer.

The Central Pollution Control Board team led by their Chairman visited the site and adjoining affected areas. Samples of soil, deposition scratch, raw material, leachates were taken and analysed to ascertain the source and likely composition of the gas discharged.

(c) Central Government have asked the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Central Pollution Control Board to take actions urgently which include the following:—

(i) To prohibit the indiscriminate burning of hazardous wastes in the open.

(ii) To prohibit storage and handling of hazardous substances in unauthorised places.

(iii) To identify local persons in communities and entrust with the responsibility of ensuring that such practices are not permitted; and

(iv) To urgently identify sites for disposal of hazardous wastes after conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment.

**Demand of Tiger-bone products**

2432. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of the World Wildlife Fund,

indicating that the international rise in the demand of tiger-bone products has threatened the Indian tiger population; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to save the tiger population in the country from the poachers, to check illegal trade in tiger parts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps taken by the Government are as under:

(i) A Tiger Crisis Cell has been set up in the Ministry.

(ii) State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around the tiger reserves.

(iii) Steps have been initiated to set up Special Strike Force in the Project Tiger areas.

(iv) Steps have been taken to set up a Global Tiger Forum with membership of all 13 range states. India has recently ratified the Statutes of the Global Tiger Forum.

(v) A bilateral Protocol on tiger conservation was recently signed with China, which, *inter-alia*, provides for cooperation in controlling poaching.

**Rise in the atmospheric pollution in Delhi**

2433. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any recent study to know the extent of rise in the atmospheric pollution in Delhi and the various forms of pollutions emitted into the atmosphere, since the beginning of 1994;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of rise in the atmospheric pollution at present, as compared to pollution at the beginning of 1994;

(c) whether Government have critically examined the deficiencies in checking the rising atmospheric popullation in the city; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government propose to remove the deficiencies in the measures to control pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme caried out by the Central Pollution Control Board, the trend of ambient air quality of Delhi in terms of major air quality parameters such as levels of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) sulphur dioxide ($So_2$) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) is regularly monitored. Data collected from six locations across the city of Delhi has been examined up to December, 1994.

(b) The average levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen in the ambient air at these six locations are within the prescribed limits, while the level of suspended particulate matter is showing an increasing trend at some locations during winter.

The average levels of air quality parameters at six locations in Delhi are shown in the Table below:—

| Location | Jan 94 | | | Dec. 94 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SO2 | NOx | SPM | SO2 | NOx | SPM |
| Ashok Vihar (R) | 23 | 32 | 351 | 24 | 34 | 463 |
| Shahzadabagh (I) | 24 | 32 | 466 | 26 | 44 | 328 |